(b) if so, the percentage of land on which Afforestation is essential for this purpose;

(c) whether Government has decided to implement various schemes to increase the forest cover; and

(d) if so, the détails thereof and the amount allocated for implementation of each scheme during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No such study exists which establishes the correlation between the percentage of land to be afforested and mitigation of adverse effects of climate change.

(c) and (d) Various schemes are being implemented by the Centre & States for tree planting/afforestation to increase the forest cover. The details of ongoing schemes of Govt. of India alongwith allocations for the year 2009-10 are given in the table below:

(Rs. in crores)

| Sl.No. | Name of Scheme | Allocation for 2009-10 |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | National Afforestation Programme | 345.62 |
| 2. | Eco-Development Force | 10.50 |
| 3. | Grants-in-Aid for Greening India | 3.28 |

In addition to above, Gram Van Yojana (GVY) Scheme has been mooted for afforestation on non-forest lands for which an allocation of Rs.900 crores has been made during the 11th plan.

The Government of India has introduced a new scheme with an outlay of Rs. 500.00 crore as an additional central assistance for "Accelerated Programme of Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover" under State Plan during 2009-10.

**Environmental Protection in Himalayas**

†311. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is going to open a National Institute of Himalayan Glaciology at Dehradun and a fully automatic wheather station at Almora in order to protect environment in the Himalayas;

(b) if so, what efforts Government has made in this direction; and

(c) by when these institutes would be set-up and the budget be earmarked by Government in this regard?

† Orignial notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to start a National Institute of Himalayan Glaciology. However, Government has initiated a nodal centre on glaciology as part of existing Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG). The first fully automated weather tower has been established in the G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (GBPIHED). GBPIHED in collaboration with Centre for Mathematical Modeling and Computer Simulation, Bangalore have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to establish series of fully automated weather towers across Indian Himalayas.

**Yamuna Action Plan**

312. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount Government has already spent on Yamuna Action Plan Project to clean the holy river Yamuna;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite so much efforts the river still remains completely polluted;

(c) whether it implies that the entire Yamuna Action Plan has proved to be a failure; and

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to take action against the erring agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (d) The first phase of the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP), covering 21 towns of UP, Delhi & Haryana commenced in April, 1993. A total expenditure of Rs. 682 crore was incurred under this phase which was completed in 2003. The second Phase of YAP commenced in December, 2004. Till September, 2009, an expenditure of Rs. 226.89 crore has been incurred under this phase. The projects taken up under YAP include interception and diversion of raw sewage, setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants, creation of low costs sanitation facilities, setting up of etectric/improved wood crematoria etc. Sewage treatment capacity of 753.25 mld has been created so far under this Plan.

As per the water quality monitoring undertaken through independent institutions, the water quality in the stretch of the river Yamuna from Tajewala to Palla in Haryana is found to be within the prescribed limits. However, the stretch of the river in the vicinity of Delhi (downstream of Wazirabad barrage to upstream of Okhla barrage) and in parts of Uttar Pradesh does not meet the standards in terms of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand. The water quality of Yamuna has not shown the desired improvement owing to large gap between the demand and availability of sewage treatment capacity and lack of fresh water in the river.

Besides YAP, the Government of NCT of Delhi has taken up sewerage and sewage treatment works under other schemes to fully address the pollution load being discharged into Yamuna. The Delhi Jal Board has prepared schemes for laying of interceptor sewers along three major drains